

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT A POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED RECOGNIZING THE ISLAMIC HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which expresses the sense of the Congress that a postage stamp should be issued recognizing the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Muslims are a growing and vibrant part of our community. They are our friends, neighbors, doctors, and merchants. Ramadan occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar when all Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Observing Ramadan is one of the "five pillars of Islam" and all Muslims, except children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and the sick are expected to abstain from food and drink during the day.

Another pillar of the Islamic faith is the hajj, or the pilgrimage to Mecca. This period commemorates when Muslims believe the Koran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad from the Archangel Gabriel. Therefore, many Muslims try to read the entire Koran during Ramadan.

During Ramadan, in addition to fasting and studying the Koran, observing Muslims recite special prayers, donate money to the poor, and seek forgiveness from those whom they may have wronged. Such practices nurture self-discipline and compassion, rejuvenate faith, and help Muslims earn merit for the afterlife.

In return, Muslims believe that God will cleanse our sins at the beginning of Eid al-Fitr, a festive three-day celebration that marks the end of Ramadan. Muslims believe that Eid signifies a new beginning, a second chance to lead more righteous lives.

I am proud to represent the Muslim-Americans who have chosen to live and work in Northern Virginia. Muslim-Americans have strong family values which they renew with their families and friends during Ramadan. Muslim-Americans contribute to our diverse community with their hard work, academic achievements, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their sense of discipline, obedience, and community during Ramadan is inspiring to all of us.

For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution which would express the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued to celebrate Ramadan.

CONGRATULATING MATTIE SHARKEY, OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, ON HER RECOGNITION BY THE "DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Mattie Sharkey is being honored by the Sikeston, MO, "Daughters of Sunset" at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Mattie who has shown a life-long commitment to her family, her community and her church.

Mattie is the daughter of the late John and Eliza Ross. She was born in Grenada, MS, on December 21, 1900. She grew up on a farm and her education was limited to the 4th grade because she had to work in the fields. She has two sisters and one brother.

In 1924, Mattie moved to Swan Lake, MS. There she married Nathaniel Sharkey, and they are the parents of five girls. In 1929, the family moved to Portageville, MO. They purchased a farm located on River Road near Point Pleasant. In 1936, Mattie's husband passed away. Mattie continued to live and work on the River Road farm with her children. The girls attended school and went to high school in New Madrid, MO. After the girls left home, Mattie moved to the town of Portageville, where she was active at Zion Rock Baptist Church. Mattie also has been active in her community as a member of the NAACP and the 4-H Club and as a volunteer at the community center where she worked with girls.

Mattie's daughters have made sure that she has had an opportunity to travel. Some of the places she has traveled include Hawaii, Bahamas Island, California, Mexico, Canada, Niagara Falls, New York and Chicago. Mattie currently lives in Sikeston, MO with her daughter, Eliza Strickland.

Congratulations Mattie, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." May you, your loved ones, and the people of Sikeston continue to be blessed with your thoughtful dedication to family and community.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF WORLD WAR I VETERAN JOHN PAINTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the Nation's last surviving World War I veterans, Mr. John George Painter, a 111-year-old native of Jackson County, TN.

Mr. Painter fought heroically on the battlefields of France as a member of the U.S.

Army during a horrible war. His actions earned him honorary membership in the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. He was also presented France's prestigious Order of the Legion of Honor for his role in helping France defeat its enemies.

As our country prepares to celebrate Veterans Day, I would like to congratulate Mr. Painter for his military service and for a job well done. Mr. Painter and other veterans certainly have the undying gratitude of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JAN DUCKWORTH—A GREAT AMERICAN AND FRIEND TO MANY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Senators BEN Nighthorse CAMPBELL and WAYNE ALLARD, and Representatives JOEL HEFLEY, BOB SCHAFER, DIANE DEGETTE, MARK UDALL, and THOMAS TANCREDI, I would like to honor the life of a dear friend, loyal civic servant and one of Colorado's leading ladies, Jan Duckworth. Tragically, the world lost Jan earlier this week when her plane, bound for Cairo, Egypt, crashed just off the coast of Massachusetts.

But even as we mourn her tragic and untimely passing, everyone who has had the privilege of knowing Jan can take comfort in the memory of her remarkable life.

Since 1978, Jan worked diligently and with great distinction in the Colorado House of Representatives. In the beginning, she was responsible for the distribution of bills and their related documents to members and their staff in the Capitol. It was not long thereafter that Jan's good work was recognized by her superiors who, in turn, promoted her through the ranks of the House administrative staff. At the time of her death, Jan was serving as the House's Chief Assignable Clerk. In addition to attending to the important business of the Colorado House, Jan also took tremendous pride in training new staff on the legislative process and new member training and orientation.

Of the many accolades bestowed upon Jan during her time in the Colorado House of Representatives, none could ever fully capture the breadth of her service to this esteemed body. For Jan's service extended far beyond the dictates of any job description: she worked the chamber, telling a joke to those weary of debate; disarming the embattled with her quick wit; adding an element of warmth and hospitality to a place that, at times, could be cool with confrontation. These are the memories of Jan that colleagues, friends, and family will cling to during this difficult time and throughout the rest of our lives.

Although her professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, those who knew Jan well will remember her, above

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

all else, as a friend. It is clear that the multitude of those who have come to know and love Jan will be worse off in her absence. However, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that, in spite of this profound loss, Jan's co-workers, family and friends can take solace in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known her.

But even as we mourn her passing, those who knew and loved Jan should find peace in the rich legacy that she has left behind in her son, William Duckworth, her daughter, Mary Lynn Mimouna, and her granddaughter Wardalynn Mimouna. I know that these and other members of her family—including her sisters Mary Zow and Meredith Larson—will long carry the torch of honor, compassion, integrity and goodwill that defined Jan Duckworth's time on this earth.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
APPLING COUNTY LADY PI-
RATES GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM,
1999 AA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Lady Pirates Girls Softball Team of Appling County High School in Baxley, GA, for recently capturing the AA State Championship title in girls softball. This fine group of young women and their coaches from Georgia's 8th district deserve great recognition for their hard work and success.

The Lady Pirates have a long history of victories, having won eight region championships under the strong leadership of Head Coach Kathy Warren. Coach Warren began coaching Lady Pirate Softball in 1981, and under her leadership, the Lady Pirates have 326 wins. Over the course of her coaching career, Kathy Warren has been named the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Coach of the year nine times, and she was selected as the GACA State AAA Coach of the Year in 1993.

I also want to congratulate Assistant Coach Janice Sellers, who has coached the team for 18 years, and Assistant Coach Tonya Long, who has coached the team for 8 years. Coaches spend every day of their lives building character, integrity, and determination in our young people. I want to commend Coaches Warren, Sellers, and Long for their commitment and service.

The Lady Pirates have had numerous accomplishments over the years of which to be proud. The team placed first seed in the South Sectionals over the past 3 years. They placed 4th in the State in 1991 and 1993. They placed 3d in the State in 1981 and 1995. And in 1992, 1997, and 1998, the Lady Pirates were the State Runners-up, moving on to capture the Championship this year.

These young women are not just exceptional athletes; they are also exceptional students. During the first 6 weeks grading period of the 1999–2000 school year, 14 of the Lady Pirate Softball Team members were listed on the school's honor roll for academic achievement. Not only have they demonstrated hard

work on the field, but they have proven to be hard workers in the classroom as well, demonstrating the ability to take on many achievements at once.

I want to take this time to recognize the Lady Pirates individually. The 1999 players are seniors: Lindsey Baxley, Sarah Carter, Jana Lamb, Bridgett Lasseter, Contessa Smith, Sarah Warren, Alissa Winn, Samantha Wright. Juniors: Candace Carter, Hanna Glenn, Amy Johnson, Ashley Winn. Sophomores: Cookie Alderman, Vicki Edenfield, Billie Jean Gibson, Alisha Tillman, Jodi Whitty, Lindsey Worthington. Freshmen: Carmen Chauncey, Tiffany Griffis, Sheena Hayes, Shafia Kent, Jessica Lindsey, Kylee Reese, and Candyce Sellers. This is an outstanding group of athletes.

Mr. Speaker, victory cannot be achieved without the hard work, talent, and perseverance of every single athlete and the strong leadership and direction of the coaches. This team knows that, as their team motto is "Be The Team." They truly are a team to be proud of, and it is an honor for me to represent Appling County, GA, in the People's House. I look forward to many more victories from the Lady Pirates in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my daughter Casey Elizabeth Hulshof, I was not present for rollcall votes 550 through 564. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 550, "yea" on rollcall vote 551, "yea" on rollcall vote 552, "yea" on rollcall vote 553, "yea" on rollcall vote 554, "yea" on rollcall vote 555, "yea" on rollcall vote 556, "yea" on rollcall vote 557, "nay" on rollcall vote 558, "no" on rollcall vote 559, "aye" on rollcall vote 560, "yea" on rollcall vote 561, "yea" on rollcall vote 562 and "yea" on rollcall vote 563.

CONGRATULATING KEITH GIBSON,
OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, ON HIS
RECOGNITION BY THE "DAUGHTERS
OF SUNSET"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Keith Gibson is being honored by the Sikeston, MO "Daughters of Sunset" at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Keith who is being recognized on this day for his community involvement.

Keith was born in Chicago, IL. He is the son of Samuel and Annette Gibson of Sikeston, MO and Barbara and Gerald Nathan of St. Louis, MO. He is the 1974 graduate of McKinley High School in St. Louis, MO. On Thanksgiving Day in 1986, Keith moved to Sikeston,

MO. He is the father of two sons, Keith Jr. and Tevin, and he has been employed with Sikeston Public Schools as a bus driver since February 1990.

One day, Keith had an idea to have a simple picnic for his boys and their friends. His idea became so popular that it became an annual event which is now called "Gibson's Day in the Park." In 1994, Keith started with a picnic for 15 to 20 kids. Over the years, as many as 135 kids take part in the "Gibson Day in the Park"—and Keith expects more kids to participate next year. Keith asks the "Gibson Day" participants to bring hot dogs, juice, cookies and/or chips depending on the size of the family. Most large families spend about \$5.00 on the event.

In the past years, different local businesses have helped by donating items for "Gibson Day in the Park." Keith offers special thanks to Bunny Bread, McDonald's Restaurant, and Sikeston Public Schools for their contributions. The city of Sikeston, MO allows Keith to use their vans, and several parents help out with the activities.

Keith says that he loves kids, and that they give him the strength to go on. Keith's plans for the future include starting a day care center and bringing kids camping and to the zoo. People have asked Keith how he does it. He tells them, "Just look at the kids' faces when they're happy, and you tell me why I do it." In fact, Keith often says that he's just a big kid himself. Keith believes that the "Gibson Day in the Park" picnic shows kids that we can get along together. The day helps kids develop organization skills and a sense of responsibility. And the fact of knowing that someone out there cares about them other than their parents, makes the kids feel good.

Congratulations, Keith, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." Your dedication to the children of Sikeston, MO is both inspiring and heartwarming. May many more kids have the opportunity to benefit from you, your "Gibson's Day in the Park," and your future hope and plans for their future.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF
WORLD WAR I VETERAN GEORGE
DECKARD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the Nation's last surviving World War I veterans, Mr. George William Deckard, a 102-year-old native of Macon County, TN.

Mr. Deckard fought heroically on the battlefields of France as a member of the U.S. Army during a horrible war. His actions earned him honorary membership in the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. He was also presented France's prestigious Order of the Legion of Honor for his role in helping France defeat its enemies.

As our country prepares to celebrate Veterans Day, I would like to congratulate Mr. Deckard for his military service and for a job well done. Mr. Deckard and other veterans certainly have the undying gratitude of the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
TELFAIR COUNTY LADY TRO-
JANS GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM,
1999 CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Lady Trojans Girls Softball Team of Telfair County High School in McRae, GA for recently capturing the Class A State Championship title in girls softball. This fine group of young women and their coaches from Georgia's 8th district deserve great recognition for their hard work and success.

This is not only a victory for these fine young women, but for their school as well, as it is the first State Championship for Telfair County in over 30 years and the first ever in softball. The Lady Trojans have won four straight area titles and have advanced to the playoffs three times in the last 4 years.

I want to congratulate Telfair County Head Coach Colby Taylor, Coach Becky Hamilton, and Coach Randy Pope for their leadership and dedication to the team. Coaches spend every day of their lives building character, integrity, and determination in our young people and I want to commend each of them for their commitment and service.

I also want to take this time to recognize the Lady Trojans individually. The 1999 players are Falon Wooten, Kamika Collins, Haley Clarke, Cameo Cooper, Karla Hamilton, Jodi Burruss, Heather McGowan, Davitta Jones, Kaycee Pope, Judy McRae, Sam Wilmouth, Danyelle Williams, Melonie Wilcox, Latoria Mathis, and Paige Froug. This is an outstanding group of athletes.

Mr. Speaker, victory cannot be achieved without the hard work, talent, and perseverance of every single athlete and the strong leadership and direction of the coaches. The Lady Trojans truly are a team to be proud of, and it is an honor for me to represent Telfair County, GA in the People's House. The Lady Trojans made history this year, and I look forward to many more victories from this outstanding team in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor of the House on Tuesday, November 2, 1999, on official business and was unable to cast recorded votes on rollcalls 553, 554, 555 and 556.

Had I been present for rollcall 553, I would have voted "yea" to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 213, a concurrent resolution encouraging the Secretary of Education to promote, and State and local educational agencies to incorporate in their education programs, financial literacy training.

On rollcall 554, I would have voted "yea" to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 59, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On rollcall 555, I would have voted "yea" to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3164, a bill to provide for the imposition of economic sanctions on certain foreign persons engaging in, or otherwise involved in, international narcotics trafficking.

On rollcall 556, I would have voted "yea" to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 349, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should immediately transmit to Congress the President's recommendations for emergency response actions, including appropriate off-sets, to provide relief and assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

COMMENDING ROBERT GRANATO
FOR HIS SERVICE TO
STONINGTON, CT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert Granato for his years of service to citizens in Stonington, CT. Bob's life-long dedication to public service is a model for all Americans.

Bob Granato began serving his country and community in the Army during the Korean War. After graduating from Boston University, Bob began a career as a counselor at Thames Valley Technical College in Norwich, CT. Over the next two decades, Bob helped thousands of students of all ages to determine their career path and to improve their skills in order to remain competitive in a changing economy.

After his retirement in 1989, Bob was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission in Stonington. For the next eight and one-half years, Bob served the community as a member and Chairman of the Commission. During this period, he helped the community to address and, ultimately overcome, significant economic changes which gripped all of southeastern Connecticut as the defense industry down-sized after the cold war. In a recent article in the *Westerly Sun*, Bob spoke about the challenges and responsibilities associated with leadership as Chairman of the Commission. He spoke of the mundane, but essential responsibility of maintaining order during a crowded hearing as well as the more weighty issue of bearing ultimate responsibility for the Commission's decisions. Bob recognized these responsibilities and confronted them head on.

Over the years, Bob and his wife, Carol, have been strong supporters of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, a multi-faceted social service agency that provides humanitarian services to residents of the region. This effort is another example of Bob's commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Granato is a public servant in every sense of the world. I know he will continue to serve long after his recent "retirement."

CONGRATULATING MAUDE HAR-
RIS, OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, ON
HER RECOGNITION BY THE
"DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Maude Harris is being honored by the Sikeston, MO "Daughters of Sunset" at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Maude who is being recognized on this day for her involvement in her community.

Maude is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bankhead of Wyatt, MO. Maude has six brothers and a sister. Maude attended Charleston Elementary School and graduated from Charleston High School.

Maude's educational achievements include a bachelors degree of science from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO as well as a master of arts in home economics-option II (food and nutrition emphasis). Maude published her masters program thesis, "Nutrition Practices of Rural Elderly Scott County African Americans in the Missouri Bootheel."

Maude is very active in her church, Cornerstone Baptist, working as church announcer and chairperson of the Church Newsletter. Her community activities include memberships with Daughters of Sunset, Historian, Altrusa International, Inc. of Sikeston—Astra Advisors, Sikeston Community Credit Union-supervisory chairperson, past Girl Scout leader of Troop 158, board member of Regional Arthritis Center at St. Francis Hospital and the Missouri Department of Health-Diabetes Control Project Advisory Committee, Bootheel Healthy Start Consortium Secretary, Southeast Missouri Cancer Control Coalition, past secretary and member of Southeastern Minority Health Alliance, and is the current president of Scott County Interagency Council.

Maude is employed with University Outreach and Extension as a nutrition/health specialist. She is married to Reverend Michael K. Harris, Sr., associate minister of Cornerstone Baptist Church. They are the parents of three children, Brenda, Sloan, and Kellar.

Congratulations, Maude, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." Your dedication to family, church and community is truly inspiring. May the people of Sikeston continue to be blessed with your thoughtful contributions.

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Ohio Environmental Council on their 30th Anniversary. I am honored to join them in their anniversary celebration being held on December 4, 1999.

The Ohio Environmental Council is a non-profit advocacy organization committed to solving the ecological problems in the state of Ohio. They have dedicated the last 30 years

to advocating for clean air, safe water and conservation of our natural resources in Ohio. They have truly carried out their mission "to inform, unite and empower all Ohio citizens to protect the environment and conserve natural resources."

The OEC has made tremendous efforts to be a leader in some recent environmental issues. The organization is helping the effort to correct a terrible situation of a public school that was built upon a toxic-laced former Army dump. Several graduates have leukemia and others have been diagnosed with other forms of cancer. The state health department acknowledged that the number of graduates with leukemia was statistically significant. The Ohio Environmental Council most recently has led the effort to save the Wayne National Forest and the plethora of benefits it offers.

The OEC has spent the last 30 years informing communities about environmental threats and uniting them around opportunities to help protect Ohio's natural environment. They have made tremendous improvements to better the air we breathe and water we drink.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Ohio Environmental Council for their tremendous efforts to improve the environment for the state of Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, from October 25 to October 29, 1999 I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes numbered 533–549. For the record I would have voted "aye" on the following rollcall votes numbers 533 and 545, Journal votes; number 534, H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act; number 535, H.R. 2303, the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act to which I am a cosponsor; number 536, H. Con. Res. 194, on Recognizing the contributions of 4-H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service; number 537, H. Con. Res. 190, urging the United States to seek a global consensus supporting a moratorium on tariffs; number 538, H. Con. Res. 208, expressing the sense of the Congress against tax increases in order to fund additional government spending; number 539, H. Con. Res. 102, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions; number 540, H. Con. Res. 188, commending Greece and Turkey for their response to the recent earthquakes in those countries; number 541, H.R. 1175, to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel; number 544, H.R. 2260, the Pain Relief Promotion Act, to which I am a cosponsor; and number 546, H.J. Res. 73, the Continuing Resolution;

For the record, I would have voted "no" on the following rollcall votes: number 542, the Scott Amendment to H.R. 2260; number 543, the Johnson of Connecticut Amendment to H.R. 2260; number 547, H. Res. 345, waiving points of order against the D.C. Appropriations Conference Report; number 548, the motion to recommit the D.C. Appropriations Act, 2000; and number 549, on agreeing to the Conference Report for the D.C. Appropriations Act, 2000.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT CRESSKILL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to a Holocaust remembrance ceremony that will take place tomorrow at Cresskill Junior-Senior High School in Cresskill, NJ, and to commend those involved in organizing this event.

Definitively, the Holocaust was one of the darkest chapters in the history of our world. However, words cannot begin to express the horror and inhumanity of this unforgivable crime against humanity. It is vitally important that we remember the Holocaust, no matter how painful and horrifying those memories may be. Remembering the Holocaust is the best way to ensure that it never happens again. To quote George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

At Cresskill Junior-Senior High School tomorrow, students and faculty will gather to remember the Holocaust, passing on the memories to a new generation who will, in turn, pass them on to their children and grandchildren. This will not be a mere academic exercise or a lesson in distant history, however. Approximately 20 survivors of the Nazi Holocaust—along with survivors of some more recent genocides around the world—will be on hand to tell their stories firsthand.

Tomorrow's event was organized at the urging of Lara Pomerantz, a 15-year-old sophomore at Cresskill. Lara is an outstanding young woman who led the efforts that resulted in Governor Whitman declaring the first week of November as Holocaust Education Week in New Jersey. She then worked with former principal Henry McNally and current principal Wayne Merckling to organize the school event.

Why does a 15-year-old from New Jersey have such a strong interest in events that occurred half a world away 40 years before she was born? Lara has a close personal link to the Holocaust and good reason to remember. As Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland, her maternal grandparents—Abraham and Regina Tauber—narrowly escaped the Holocaust. After spending the war years on the run, in hiding and as members of the Resistance, they returned to their hometown of Chodel, Poland, to find only 11 Jewish members of that entire community alive—11 individuals out of 950.

Mr. and Mrs. Tauber will be at Cresskill Junior-Senior High tomorrow to support their granddaughter and tell their story to her classmates. In a letter to me, Lara said, "My life is a living testament to their will to survive." No words could be more inspiring to each generation—present and future.

By telling their stories to this gathering of teenagers, the Taubers and other Holocaust survivors will keep the memory alive for another generation—not just as words on a textbook page but as the story of someone these young people have actually met. Their efforts will show another generation that the victims of the Holocaust were not just abstract numbers or strangers—they are members of our

families, the parents and grandparents of our friends.

We all know the famous words of Martin Niemöller, the Lutheran minister who resisted Hitler. "I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist . . . I wasn't a Jew . . . I wasn't a trade unionist." If the world does not remember the Holocaust, there could come a time for each of us when we would be faced with Reverend Niemöller's final line: "Then they came for me and no one was left to speak up for me."

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Cresskill Junior-Senior High School—and the Holocaust survivors who are joining them—on this effort to see that history does not repeat itself.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SPAINHOUR

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work of David W. Spainhour. On Sunday, November 7, David will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the Santa Barbara B'nai Brith Lodge.

As someone who has worked closely with the ADL in its efforts to promote tolerance and combat hatred and prejudice, I am pleased that this prominent organization has chosen to honor David. They could not have made a wiser selection.

David is one of Santa Barbara's preeminent business leaders. He serves as President of Capital Bancorp and Chairman of the Board of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust. Throughout his thirty-three year career at the Bank, David has dedicated himself to improving all facets of life in our community.

David has worked tirelessly in the areas of education, business development, health care, and assisting the neediest in our society. Among other positions, he serves on the boards of Westmont College, Santa Barbara Industry Education Council, and the United Way of Santa Barbara County. David and his wife Carolyn are shining examples of individuals who believe passionately in serving the common good. I am proud of their accomplishments and I am pleased to announce David's award on the floor of the House.

CONGRATULATING MINISTER ARTHUR E. CASSELL, OF SIKESTON, MO, ON HIS RECOGNITION BY THE "DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Minister Arthur E. Cassell is being honored by the Sikeston, MO "Daughters of Sunset" at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Minister Cassell who is

being recognized on this day for his community involvement.

Minister Cassell is an associate minister at the Opportunity Church of God and Christ in Charleston, MO, and has been employed as a letter carrier at the Sikeston, Missouri Post Office since December 1981. He is married to Lucille (Richardson) Cassell who is president of their diaper company. The Cassells are the parents of four sons.

Minister Cassell is a former marine who has been an active worker in the Southeast Missouri area since his discharge. He is the president of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP, chairman of the Weed & Seed Steering Committee in Charleston; has served as an executive board member of Southeast Missouri Legal Services since 1989, and served on the Community Outreach Center board in Sikeston, MO.

Minister Cassell also has cosponsored job preparedness classes, youth services, and activities. In his own words, "Through helping others and trying to meet people's needs, I have found that even more needs to be done." Minister Cassell's philosophy is, "If you're going to do it, go all out."

Congratulations, Minister Cassell, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." By "going all out" for your family, church and community, you have touched the lives of so many others, and have helped them discover the possibility of brighter futures.

IN HONOR OF JOHNNIE JOHNSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the beloved rock and roller, Johnnie Johnson, for his monumental contributions he has made to American music over the past half-century. The rock and roll community will recognize him for his accomplishments by naming December 1, 1999 "Johnnie Johnson Day" at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

It all began on New Year's Eve 1952. The saxophonist for the Johnnie Johnson Trio fell ill and could not perform. Johnnie knew of a local guitar player named Chuck Berry, who agreed to sit in for the occasion. The evening was a smashing success and Berry instantly became a member of the Johnnie Johnson Trio. As their popularity grew, it was evident that Berry had a flare for entertaining audiences. Because of Berry's business insight, Johnnie agreed to make him the headliner. They decided that Berry would write the lyrics, and then he and Johnnie would put the music behind them. They eventually went on to record their first album, *Maybellene*, in 1955 and later great hits including *Roll Over Beethoven*, *Rock and Roll Music*, and *Back in the USA*.

Although not fully credited in the past, Johnnie Johnson has become widely recognized as the best blues pianist in the world and holder of the trademarks "Father of Rock & Roll" and "Father of Rock & Roll Piano." Recently, Johnnie Johnson has won several "Best Pianist" awards as well as receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Riverfront Times Music Magazine* and the city of St.

Louis in 1996. In a recent book about the man of music, author Travis Fitzpatrick tells the story of the music and the man that shaped the rock and roll world. *Father of Rock & Roll: The Story Of Johnnie "B. Goode" Johnson* secures the unsung hero his rightful place in history. Johnnie Johnson is finally on the way to receiving the credit he so rightfully deserves.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this great musician, Johnnie "B. Goode" Johnson, for his unselfish dedication to music. "Johnnie Johnson Day" is only a small recognition that we could give the man who's music moved us time and again.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIAMI-DADE
FIRE AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue team for their efforts and contributions in international disaster responses.

The team was created in 1985 to respond with search and rescue efforts following the earthquake that rocked Mexico City. Since then, the team has been called upon for disaster assistance throughout the world including Armenia, the Philippines, and El Salvador. They have also responded to emergencies closer to home including the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City, Hurricane George, and Hurricane Mitch. Most recently the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Team has assisted in earthquake disaster relief in Turkey and in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Team has specialized equipment and K-9 units trained to find people trapped in collapsed buildings. Their technical response team members are experts in vehicle extrication, confined space rescue, and rope rescue. Additionally, their department maintains a mass casualty bus and mobile command vehicle for large scale incident response.

The contributions of the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team to the humanitarian relief community are invaluable. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding team of people and wish them continued success in their endeavors.

NATIONAL SECURITY SEALIFT
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, today my friend from Louisiana, Mr. JEFFERSON and I are introducing comprehensive legislation to address provisions of the tax code that have led to the decline of our domestic maritime industry.

The last fifty years have seen a steady erosion of the size and capacity of the U.S.-flag merchant marine. In 1947, more than 2,300 ships flew the Stars and Stripes. That figure has shrunk by nearly 90% since then. Amazingly, there are now seventeen countries with larger merchant marine fleets. For those who have followed the decline of the U.S.-flag, it will come as no surprise that we have been eclipsed by such nations as Panama, Liberia, Cyprus, and Saint Vincent.

These nations do not have enormous merchant marines because of their exports or imports. I am convinced that favorable tax treatment in those countries is directly responsible for the decline of our own merchant marine and the growth we have seen elsewhere in the world.

This is a critical matter of both national security and economic growth. Unless we as a country respond quickly and effectively to this situation our United States-flag merchant marine—the nation's fourth arm of defense—will in all likelihood be unable to fulfill its historic mission of responding in times of war or other international emergencies.

As I remarked earlier this year, as recently as the Persian Gulf War and the conflict in Bosnia, United States-flag commercial vessels and United States citizen crews respond quickly, effectively, and efficiently to our nation's call, providing the sealift sustainment capability necessary to support America's armed forces and to help protect America's interests overseas. In 1992, General Colin Powell, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the graduating class of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point that:

"Since I became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have come to appreciate firsthand why our merchant marine has long been called the nation's fourth arm of defense . . . The war in the Persian Gulf is over but the merchant marine's contribution to our nation continues. In war, merchant seamen have long served with valor and distinction by carrying critical supplies and equipment to our troops in far away lands. In peacetime, the merchant marine has another vital role—contributing to our economic security by linking us to our trading partners around the world and providing the foundation for our ocean commerce."

The maritime industry is not only important to our nation's economic and military security. It is also of particular importance to my State of Louisiana. A recent report concludes that "the ports of Louisiana and the maritime industry are crucial parts of the Louisiana economy." It calculates that in 1997, Louisiana realized a "total economic impact [of] \$28.1 billion" from the activities of our State's ports, steamship and tug and barge companies, firms providing shore side services, and other entities engaged in the maritime, transportation and related service and supply industries. We should not allow these economic benefits to be lost to Louisiana, any other State or to our nation as a whole.

I remain convinced that the best way to ensure that our nation continues to have the militarily-useful commercial vessels and trained and loyal citizen crews we need to support our interests around the world is to pursue policies enabling our maritime industry to flourish in peacetime. The place to start, without question, is the tax code.

A review of foreign tax laws demonstrates that the decline in our merchant marine can be traced to the favorite tax benefits offered by other countries. In 1995, United States-flag vessel carriers presented testimony to the Congress which summarized the impact American tax laws have on American vessels and

described, in terms as true today as they were then, how these laws favor foreign shipping operations:

"U.S.-based liner companies are subject to significantly higher taxes than their foreign-based counterparts . . . [A]s a result of shipping tax exemptions, deferral devices, and accelerated depreciation, many of our foreign competitors pay virtually no income taxes [and] neither do their crews under many foreign tax regimes. Yet here at home, even in our unprofitable years, we are subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax. Consequently, U.S.-flag operators must earn more in the marketplace than their competitors in order to earn the same amount for reinvestment or distribution to shareholders."

Strengthening the economic viability and competitiveness of United States-flag vessel operations requires us to adapt the tax regime governing our merchant marine to the realities of today's international shipping environment.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 2159, which is intended to assist American vessel owners to accumulate the private capital necessary to build modern, efficient and economical commercial vessels in United States shipyards. It would do so by amending the existing merchant marine Capital Construction Fund (CCF) program. The existing program allows an American citizen to deposit the earnings from various United States-built, United States-flag vessels into a tax deferred CCF to be used solely to build vessels in American shipyards. The deferred tax is recouped by the Treasury through reduced depreciation because the tax basis of vessels built with CCF monies is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The provisions of H.R. 2159 are incorporated into the legislation we are introducing today. It will, among other things, allow earnings from the operation of United States-flag foreign built commercial vessels, and the amount of the duty arising from foreign ship repairs, to be deposited into a Capital Construction Fund in order to increase the amount of capital available to build vessels in our country. Equally important, my legislation will allow CCF monies to be withdrawn to build, in the United States, a vessel to be operated in the oceangoing domestic trades in order to further enhance the modernization and growth of this important segment of our maritime industry. It will further allow these funds to be used to acquire containers or trailers for use on a United States-flag vessel, and allows these monies to be used in conjunction with the lease of a United States-built vessel, or trailer or container, in order to better reflect the realities of current ship financing arrangements. Finally, in order to ensure that the full intended benefits of these changes and the Capital Construction Fund are realized, our legislation removes the Capital Construction Fund as an alternative minimum tax adjustment item.

In addition, this bill will increase international competitiveness by allowing the owner of any United States-flag vessel engaged in the foreign trades to elect to fully expense United States-flag vessels in the year in which they acquired and documented under the United States-flag. Today, the United States has a ten-year depreciation schedule while foreign nations generally allow much more aggressive depreciation schedules. In addition, countries such as the Bahamas, Cyprus, Liberia and Panama which register a significant percent-

age of the world's shipping against which United States-flag vessels must compete are totally exempt from all income taxes.

To increase the employment opportunities for American merchant mariners aboard American owned vessels engaged in the foreign trades, this bill would extend the existing foreign source income exclusion to merchant seamen. At present, this exclusion, contained in section 911 of the Internal Revenue Code, is available to Americans working outside the United States. As a result, it costs vessel operators considerably more to hire Americans than it costs foreign vessel operators to hire nationals from the many countries that limit or exempt income taxation imposed on their mariners. Clearly, one of the goals of the existing section 911 is to promote America's national interests through the employment of American citizens. Ensuring that the United States has a sufficient number of loyal, trained American merchant mariners to crew the government-owned and private vessels needed during war or other emergency is a key component of America's sealift capability. Extending section 911 to American mariners will, by increasing their opportunity for employment, augment America's available manpower and seapower force.

Finally, the bill recognizes that the tax benefits otherwise available through the legislation can be rendered meaningless through the operation of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). To further enhance the competitiveness of American flag vessel operations, our legislation repeals the AMT with respect to shipping income earned from the operation of U.S.-flag vessels in the foreign trades. Without this provision, the maritime industry might find that the other changes contemplated in this legislation are but hollow promises.

Today, American vessels and American merchant mariners are forced to compete in an environment largely dominated by heavily subsidized and foreign state-owned fleets as well as fleets registered in flag-of-convenience countries that are effectively tax havens for these ships. As a result, U.S.-flag ships ply the oceans at a significant economic disadvantage. Further erosion of our seapower threatens America's defense capabilities and the economy of states like Louisiana. In response, we can and should take aggressive action in this area and the legislation being introduced today is a positive step in that direction.

I intend to request Chairman ARCHER to schedule a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee next year to explore the ways in which the tax code hinders our competitiveness on the open seas. I look forward to working with Congressman JEFFERSON and all of my colleagues to see that meaningful tax relief is enacted for the maritime industry.

IN HONOR OF MARLENE COVIELLO

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the East Rutherford Educational Community in recognizing December as "Marlene Coviello Month" and in paying tribute to Marlene Coviello on the occasion of her retirement

from the East Rutherford school system after twenty-three years.

Throughout her career, Marlene's teaching was characterized by a true commitment to her students' learning and her unending enthusiasm for imparting knowledge to them. Her integrity, sense of responsibility, and professionalism made her a role model, not only for her students but for her colleagues as well.

Marlene Coviello's resourcefulness and creativity as an educator enabled her to meet the changing needs of her students in the constantly evolving field of education. By teaching her students to love learning, she demonstrated why these qualities are a teacher's greatest assets.

Her smile, sense of humor, and vivacity define her as an individual and illustrate why her fellow teachers enjoyed working with Marlene and why her students learned so much from her. Marlene's determination and strength of character enabled her to prepare the children of East Rutherford for the challenges of adulthood.

I would like to join Marlene Coviello's students, family and fellow teachers in wishing her the very best as she prepares to embark on the next chapter in her life and in thanking her for twenty-three years of service on behalf of her community.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN "JO MO" ROBINSON, OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI ON HIS RECOGNITION BY THE "DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, Justin "Jo Mo" Robinson is being honored by the Sikeston, MO "Daughters of Sunset" at their 15th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Justin who is being recognized on this day as the Outstanding Athlete of The Year.

Justin is the son of Frank and Jeanette McCaster. He is the youngest of six children, four boys and two girls. Justin is a senior at Sikeston Senior High School.

Justin has played sports for several years, starting with Little League football, baseball and basketball. In his spare time, Justin enjoys fishing and playing pool. His greatest love, though, is football.

According to Justin's football coach, Charlie Vickery, Justin's football achievement include senior running back and 1999 football captain. Justin leads the Southeast Missouri area in rushing yards at 1,464, which is currently third in Sikeston history for single season yards. Justine also has 20 touchdowns, which ranks him second in Southeast Missouri, and he is tied for second in single season touchdowns in Sikeston Senior High School Bulldog records. With three games remaining in this year's season, Justin has an excellent chance to break the single season rushing record of 1,771 yards held by Tiger Boyd and the single season touchdown record of 21 also held by Boyd. Justin has chosen as a second team All-Conference Running Back as a junior in 1998.

Justin's role model is one of Sikeston, MO's greatest players, James Wilder. After graduating, Justin plans to attend the University of Arkansas to play football and run track. He would like to earn a degree in physical education. One of Justin's greatest ambitions is to play professional football, but he plans to return to Sikeston, MO to share his accomplishments with all those who have supported and loved him.

Justin often says that without his mother's love and faith in him, it's hard to say where he might be. Justin offers this advice to his peers, "Stay in school and be the best you can be, and make sure to always listen to your parents."

Congratulations, Justin, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." Your achievements as an athlete and as a faithful son make you a true role model for your friends and peers in Sikeston. Your dedication to being the best that you can be will take you a long way in realizing all of your hopes and dreams for the future.

CONGRATULATING JERI EIGNER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work of Jeri Eigner. On Sunday, November 7, Jeri will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the Santa Barbara B'nai Brith Lodge.

As someone who has worked closely with the ADL in its efforts to promote tolerance and combat hatred and prejudice, I am pleased that this prominent organization has chosen to honor Jeri. They could not have made a wiser selection.

For nearly twenty years, Jeri has distinguished herself as a tireless community activist in a wide range of critical issues. Among other positions, Jeri has served on the board

of Planned Parenthood and as a volunteer at the clinic. She has also worked as a docent at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and as a member of the Hope Ranch Board.

Perhaps Jeri's most glowing accomplishment is her leadership efforts to open the beautiful new Jewish Community Center, which has become a treasured resource for the entire Santa Barbara community. As Campaign Chair and past president of the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation, Jeri was a driving force behind the Center and is responsible for developing many of its dynamic programs and services.

Jeri and her husband Stan are shining examples of individuals who believe passionately in serving the common good. I am proud of their accomplishments and I am pleased to announce Jeri's award on the floor of the House.